

Message Text

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ACTION IO-03

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ISO-00 CU-02 EUR-08 NEA-06 INR-05 CIAE-00

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 7887

C O N F I D E N T I A L PARIS 07674

LIMDIS

NESCO

E. O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PORG, UNESCO

SUBJECT: SHARPENED PUBLIC DEBATE ON UNESCO AND ISRAEL

REF: PARIS 06554

1. DEPARTMENT'S ATTENTION REFERRED TO MARCH 26 ISSUE OF LE MONDE IN WHICH PUBLIC DEBATE RE UNESCO 18TH GENERAL CONFERENCE RESOLUTIONS ON ISRAEL IS ESCALATED BY: (A) EXTRACTS OF LENGTHY LETTER JOINTLY ADDRESSED TO LE MONDE BY UNESCO PERMREPS OF SAUDI ARABIA, EGYPT, INDIA, KUWAIT, LEBANON, LIBYA, MOROCCO AND OMAN; (B) LETTERS OF ARTHUR BERNSTEIN AND ISAAC STERN IN REJOINDER TO STANCE OF YEHUDI MENUHIN ON UNESCO-ISRAELI CONTROVERSY; AND (C) COLUMN BY IBRAHIM SOUSS, SELF-DESCRIBED "REPRESENTATIVE DESIGNATED BY THE PLO TO UNESCO". SOUSS AND ARAB PERMREPS REITERATE ARAB VIEW-POINT OF ASSERTED "JUSTIFICATION" OF ANTI-ISRAELI RESOLUTIONS AND ARE IN EXPLICIT, IF DELAYED, RESPONSE TO COMMUNIQUE OF MARCH 15 MEETING IN PARIS OF "COMMITTEE FOR UNIVERSALITY OF UNESCO". LATTER COMMUNIQUE PUBLICIZED WIDELY BY PAID ADVERTISEMENTS IN PARIS NEWS-PAPERS.

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2. PERMDEL NOTES SOUSS TITLE OF "DESIGNATED REPRESENTA-

TIVE OF PLO REFLECTS IMPORTANT NUANCE THAT HE IS NOT
RPT NOT "ACCREDITED REPRESENTATIVE", I.E. THAT HIS
PREVIOUSLY REPORTED APPLICATION FOR SUCH ACCREDITATION
HAS NOT RPT NOT BEEN GRANTED BY UNESCO SECRETARIAT.
DG M'BOW IS ABSENT ON OFFICIAL MISSION BUT PERMDEL
HAS NO RPT NO INDICATION THAT THERE HAS BEEN ANY CHANGE
IN M'BOW'S POSITION AGAINST SUCH ACCREDITATION AS
REPORTED IN REFTEL.

3. HOWEVER, SOUSS COLUMN IS THE FIRST PUBLIC MENTION
THAT PLO HAS SOUGHT ACCREDITATION AND COULD PROVOKE
FURTHER MEDIA PUBLICITY THAT WOULD MAKE IT EXTREMELY
DIFFICULT FOR M'BOW TO DISPOSE OF ISSUE QUIETLY.
RUSH

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